THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) procure the LPG cylinders from oil industry technical committee approved manufacturers under the close supervision of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Besides this, OMCs have instituted stringent measures and inspection procedures to ensure that only genuine cylinders of the company are filled at bottling plants and distributed in the market. The oil company officials also carry out surprise checks at bottling plants and distributors' premises to check the genuiness of the cylinders. The spurious cylinders identified at the bottling plants are segregated and de-shaped to avoid their re-circulation in the system.

Non-adherence of Reservation Policy by Oil PSUs

1732. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of Retail Outlets, Dealerships, LPG Distributorship and SKO Dealerships are reserved for SCs and STs;

(b) if so, whether all the Oil Companies have adhered to this reservation;

(c) if so, the details of dealership in each category, Oil Company-wise and out of that allotted to SCs and STs separately; and

(d) what action Government propose to take where this reservation has not been adhered to by Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/ distributors for retail outlet dealership (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships for different locations in the country, will be made by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. While finalising the policy, OMCs will take a view on all related questions including reservation of allotments for the Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST).

The guidelines which were in vogue earlier had provided for reservation in allotment of dealerships/distributorships to SC/ST

categories and selections were made accordingly. As on 1.10.2002, the number of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships alloted by the following oil companies to the persons in these two categories in the country were as under:—

Oil Company	RO		LPG		SKO-LDO	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	681	259	484	163	223	92
Assam Oil Division	8	75	8	58	12	57
IBP Co. Ltd.	82	34	12	1	19	9
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	271	82	247	70	45	22
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	323	95	198	98	55	19

Production of Ethanol

1733. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the production capacity of ethanol in the country, State-wise;

(b) the actual production of ethanol, State-wise;

(c) whether levies proposed to be imposed on ethanol by States are likely to make the use of ethanol non-viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Ethanol is a derivative of sugarcane molasses which is a decontrolled item. As such no data is being maintained.

(c) In the absence of fiscal concessions, the units producing anhydrous ethanol may not be competitive for the purposes of blending with motor spirit.

(d) State levies on sale, import/export of ethanol makes the price of ethanol higher than the price of motor spirit and renders the use of ethanol-blended motor spirit non-viable.